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# Pelham NEWS

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BOB LYMBURNER

## Bravery medal for fire chief

ALLAN REINER  
Tribune Staff

Bob Lymburner says he was just doing his job.

But when you're a firefighter, a typical day at work often involves saving lives.

The town's fire chief had just returned to his Pelham home when he heard the call on Friday, Oct. 12, 2012. A child was being attacked by dogs on Effingham St.

See CHIEF page 2

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ALLAN REINER/  
TRIBUNE STAFF

Pelham fire Chief Bob Lymburner holds a plaque for firefighter bravery he received from Lt. Gov. David Onley during a reception in Queen's Park, Thursday.

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# PELFONT

■ **LOCAL:** Mayor discusses east Fonthill development

## Pelham streets to see more construction into 2014

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Pelham News Staff

Construction delays on Pelham streets will be hard to miss in 2014, but Mayor Dave Augustyn calls it a good sign of progress.

Augustyn delivered his State of the Town address Tuesday morning at the annual Pelham Mayor's Breakfast in Fonthill. The town will be seeing a lot of development in 2014, therefore, the delays and construction can be expected to continue. Bike lanes, a dog park, more construction on Hwy. 20 and the installation of a turn-

ing lane to Hais St. were just some of the items highlighted. In addition, developers want shovels in the ground in early 2014 for the massive east Fonthill development and the downtown Fenwick revitalization project.

The work in Fenwick would see the burying of hydro lines and significant landscape changes. Augustyn said the historic flag pole will remain unchanged.

The east Fonthill development is 450-acre section of land that begins at the corner of Rice Rd. and Hwy. 20 and goes south to Merritt Rd.

"That area has the potential to house up to 5,000 new residents over the next five years, but our goal is to maintain that small town feel," said Augustyn.

The town is committed to "getting it right the first time" and is looking at senior retirement facilities, a health centre with five to 10 family doctors, an urgent care centre, and the possibility for a new recreational facility.

"We want a great development that adds to the small town feel. We don't want any Smart Centres. Those parking lots are unworkable. We want

the area to be walkable, bikeable and linked to the downtown," said Augustyn.

With about 11 kilometres of sidewalks being installed in the town, in the past few years, Pelham wants to maintain its status as a walkable community.

Pelham has also made the roads more bike friendly, which has given it a silver designation as a bike friendly community.

Their goal with the new development is also to retain people who leave town to shop, as well as use it as a gateway to the community.



MELISSA MANGELSEN/PELHAM NEWS STAFF

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn delivers his state of the town address, Tuesday.

The opening of the Isaac Riehl skatepark will take place in early December, Augustyn said. The skatepark is in Marlene Stewart Street Park, and is in memory of 14-year-old

Isaac Riehl.

"We want to see more public parks here, no car parks. We've been doing visioning exercises with council and still have a lot to do," he said.

■ **CHIEF**

## Pelham fire chief honoured for bravery

From page 1

"I just live around the corner," Lymburner said. "I heard the call come through and I responded."

He arrived to find five-year-old Victoria Dehaan being mauled by three huge Rottweilers in a barn on her family's rural property. With no regard for his own safety, Lymburner raced inside alone to save the child.

He recalled thinking at the time: "If I don't do something, she's going to die," he said. "They would have had her in another minute or so. They were just going at her."

"I started to yell and scream

and be aggressive," he said.

It was enough to scare off one of the 45-kilogram dogs.

"The other two I had to physically do battle with," he added.

Eventually another dog ran away, but the third wouldn't give up.

"It wouldn't let go," he said. "I had to lay the boots to that one even more."

The girl was transported to Welland hospital, and then airlifted to Toronto. Lymburner said surgeons at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children told him "It was the worst thing they'd ever dealt with, when treating a child after being mauled by a

dog."

From his own experience of 21 years as a firefighter in Pelham and Niagara Falls, Lymburner described the attack as "the worst thing I've ever seen, especially with a child."

Thursday, more than a year after that incident occurred, Lymburner was recognized for his actions during a ceremony at Queen's Park.

Ontario Lt. Gov. David Onley and Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur presented Lymburner with the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery.

He was one of four firefighters

and 14 police officers who were honoured for showing extraordinary courage in the line of duty. Lymburner said he was extremely impressed with the accomplishments of the other medal recipients, but in his case, he said Victoria is more deserving of the medal than he is.

"Tori is the real hero in the whole thing," he said. "I'm weak compared to her. For what he encountered and what she endured and what she's gone through, she has an enormous amount of strength. It's something way beyond my level. Bottom line is she's the one who should have gotten the medal."

Lymburner said Pelham chief administrative officer Darren Ottaway teamed up with a firefighter to nominate him for the medal.

"It's a great honour and I really appreciate it, but this is what we do," he said.

"I was in the right place at the right time. We go to emergencies all the time, and sometimes we're not successful."

But for Victoria's mother Jennifer Dehaan, no one could be more deserving of the medal than Lymburner.

"It's just amazing," she said. "We're extremely thankful, and happy, and we definitely see

God's hand in it."

On the one-year anniversary of the attack, Lymburner said Victoria and Jennifer visited his home.

"We talked and talked about the incident. It was good therapy for both of us," he said. Even now, she said the family has no idea why the dogs attacked the child.

"Tori played with those dogs all the time. She loved animals," Lymburner said. "She still loves animals."

He said the family still has a lot of animals on the rural property, including beagles. But they no longer own Rottweilers.

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## LOCAL NEWS

POLITICS: Lane stepping in to replace Clark

## Pelham council fills Ward 1 vacancy

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Pelham News Staff

The Ward 1 vacancy on Pelham council has been filled.

Council decided Monday night to appoint the runner-up from the last regular election, Jim Lane, to replace exiting councillor Larry Clark.

Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak presented the motion, which was unanimously supported by council.

\*Mr. Lane represents a

different view. I feel like council would do well with that view around the table," said Mayor Dave Augustyn.

Council felt that this was not the right time to call a byelection because of the projects the town has on the go, as well as the closeness to the next election—November 2014.

Lane, who has attended most council meetings for the past three years, didn't take long to express his concerns about how council is spending their

money.

"I now have the opportunity to have a voice and represent the people of Ward 1. I'm always concerned how the dollars are being spent. Council needs a fiscal voice," said Lane.

"Council does seem to spend a lot of money. I believe they need to be more fiscally responsible."

Lane is no stranger to council. He served as councillor from 2009 to 2010, when Malcolm Allen left to become MP for Welland

riding.

Following that short term, Lane ran in the last election in hopes of extending his stay.

"Always a bridesmaid, never a bride," said Lane.

He is interested in seeing how the East Fonthill development and Fenwick beautification developments pan out.

"The beautification of Fenwick doesn't seem to have a lot of support from the people who actually live in Fenwick. If the resi-

dents don't want it, I don't feel like it is something that should be focused on," he said.

Lane, being aware of the vacancy, spoke with the town clerk Nov. 12, and told them that he would be willing to accept the appointment should council elect that option to fill the seat.

Lane will be officially the Ward 1 councillor Dec. 2, when the motion comes to council.

melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca



JIM LANE

Offer to adopt  
Marlene Stewart  
Streit ParkMELISSA MANGELSEN  
Pelham News Staff

The Fonthill Scouts were at council Monday to put in an offer to adopt Marlene Stewart Streit Park.

"We would like to keep it

safe, clean and very inviting. We would also like to fix the bridges and pick up the garbage. Other improvements we could offer are to clean and level the paths, make picnic tables and bird/bat houses and feeders in the park," the group of about 12 scouts said at the council meeting. The group also plans to plant trees and flowers.

Council accepted their request and will refer the offer

to staff for further review. The park is currently looked after by the Friends of Marlene Stewart Street Park.

## Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

During the second Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) meeting for the 2013-14 term, the MYAC elected an executive, nominated members to various town committees and identified short and long-term

goals. The MYAC executive includes, Michael Ross, prime minister, Alyssa Girotti, deputy prime minister, Giordana Scodellaro, secretary, Lannie Seddon, communications minister and Ankit Sehgal, recruitment officer.

The nominees to town committees include a primary representative who will vote as required, and an alternative member, with the understanding that both

members should attend all meetings. Kate Irwin, primary, and Alyssa Girotti, alternative, Communities in Bloom; Nick Loscavo, primary, and Ankit Sehgal, alternative, downtown beautification; Loewen, primary, and Jessica Puffer, alternative, active transportation; Melanie Lachnit, primary, and Kate Irwin, alternative, seniors advisory.

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# Pelham NEWS

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## Think of others this holiday season

**T**he holiday season is quickly approaching – in fact, for some it has been here for almost a month now. It is easy to get wrapped up in our own thoughts about the holiday season, the gift buying, preparing to travel to see family and loved ones. Wrapping, decorating, parties, baking and cooking seem to consume peoples lives during this time of year.

Beyond that there are people who are worried if their child will get one present, or if they'll even have enough money to put together a meal come Dec. 25.

Tough economic times can face anyone at anytime. We live in a time where a job isn't always guaranteed. People who were once dependent on food banks are now relying on them for items that have become scarce for them.

Even those who have jobs often find themselves struggling to pay the necessary bills and still have enough for food and clothes. Students loans, credit card bills, and debt can pile up quickly and sometimes are unavoidable.

Pelham is fortunate to have Pelham Cares, which has been serving the community for 30 years. A non-profit, volunteer supported organization that helps the residents help each other in their times of need is such an important part to a community.

Someone recently said to me "part of being human is helping others when they are struggling". The Pelham Community Food Drive is coming up Dec. 7, the 24th annual Forthill Firefighters' Association Toy Drive from Dec. 7 to 15 and monetary donations will be accepted during the Santa Claus Parade.

These are great opportunities to donate.

When I was working in Fort Erie there was a problem with people donating the "junk they don't want", such as expired foods. The thought of donating shouldn't be cleaning cupboards, it should be donating things that people need, or can actually use. If you wouldn't feed it to your family, please don't donate it.

Pelham Cares is looking for items such as cereal and canned, juices, instant and ground coffee, bags of flour and rice, sugar, cooking oil, bar soap, toothpaste, shampoo, dish and laundry soap, diapers and disposable razors for men and women.

With toy drives it's easy to focus on children who are young. Buying a stuffed toy, a toy for ages six and up or books designed for those who are young. Often, people forget about the need of gifts for teenagers. Pelham Cares has a gift giving idea list on their website, but some ideas for teenagers are gift cards, movie passes and video games.

This holiday season when you're out grocery shopping or gift shopping take those extra few minutes to pick something up for someone who is in need. You never know if that person is your friend or neighbour.

These kind of actions are the glue that keeps a community together.

Don't just clean out your cupboards, give a donation that has meaning.

melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca

# Why people tune out politics

GRANT LAFLECHE

**F**or years, I have been saying the same thing about politics in this country – you cannot complain about the political system if you don't engage in it. If you don't vote, if you don't participate, you reject your responsibilities as a citizen and make the system weaker.

Apathy is corrosive to a democracy, but I understand why some people regard it as the only rational response to the behaviour of those entrusted to represent us.

Everywhere we look, our politicians behave like petulant children armed with flame throwers intended to torch whatever they please. And when we say, "Hey, um, why did you just set me on fire?" they say, "I am really, really, REALLY sorry. But you are perfect? No, I am fighting for the little guy!"

In Ottawa, the Senate is apparently home to members who spend public money like drunken sailors. In Toronto, the circus freakshow known as the mayor's office continues to find new and exciting ways to embarrass the city.

We cannot escape it in Niagara, either. Where Andy Petrowski, the junior councillor representing St. Catharines, has been often condemned by the Region's integrity commissioner.

In his report released last week, Robert Swayze said Petrowski's bellicose behaviour "amounted to bullying and intimidation" of regional staffers during two incidents – something Petrowski denies.

In his report, Swayze straight up says he doesn't believe Petrowski's testimony during an interview about the incidents

— an interview during which Petrowski's opening statement lasted an hour (that's not an opening statement, that's a filibuster).

The integrity commissioner went so far as to say he would recommend council suspend Petrowski, "and if he doesn't shape up."

Although Petrowski, in response to the report, says he'll be nicer in the future, he rejects much of the findings, saying they are misleading and biased. In Swayze's report he notes Petrowski says he believes the commissioner's office exists specifically to go after him.

It would probably have been bad if Petrowski accepted the rebuke, apologized and got down to business.

Instead, during a council meeting in which the report was tabled, he wanted Swayze to swear an oath that the content of his report was true, apparently forgetting there has never been an oath of truthfulness in council chambers.

Still, he insisted he can ask for whatever he wants because he is a councillor. To my mind this shows a remarkable lack of imagination. If a councillor could ask for whatever he wants, why not a robot tutor? Or his own entrance music when he walks into the chamber? But requesting the swearing of an imaginary oath? Boring.

Anyway, this resulted in a debate about the report degenerating (again) into a petty war of words between Petrowski and St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMillan, featuring the councillor telling the mayor to "Sit down, Mr. McMillan, for a change."

"You're not the chair of the meetings" replied McMillan.

"You're not either, so sit it down."

## A hospital review from the perspective of a prostate biopsy patient

**"Y**ou have such nice smells, look at all his lovely smells," a nurse implores to a nearby co-worker who responds, "Oh, yes, beautiful."

The first nurse continues, "Your arms look so fit. Do you work outdoors, maybe garden?" Nurses could care less if I was George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Ryan Gosling or even Matt Damon. They don't get beyond smells, which is good because this nurse is hooking me up to an intravenous drip at the new Niagara hospital in St. Catharines, an opportunity for me to assess the facility. (I'm really into positive spin). The first nurse helps me on with my hospital bed sheet, the white garment that ties up at the back and leaves your derriere exposed. The next nurse is tasked with adminstrivia, and actually makes it pleasant. A good sense of humour, but professional at the same time.

After that, Miriam is allowed to enter pre-op and sit beside me and engage me in conversation to take my mind off of what we're doing. (A prostate biopsy if you really must know.) Before this, yet another nurse walks us through the visitors' waiting

room with its comfortable chairs and a screen with the names of doctors and times of operation and a colour-coded system indicating precisely where you are from beginning to post-op recovery like a box of cereal moving along conveyor belts at a factory. The colours are quite cheery – yellows and greens and such.

My operation is delayed 1.5 hours because the OR is backed up. I don't know if this is a regular issue, but I am not about to complain. The guy beside me laments that he was sent home the last time, his operation cancelled.

Anyway, off I go with Miriam's well wishes, the aid of some pills, and am whisked away to the OR and left outside the door. Inside I hear laughter and music. I'm glad they are in good spirits. Another nurse arrives and says: "I know why you are here, you tell me." This I regard as wise because I am not there for a hysterectomy, and would be quite angry if they tried to perform one on me.

Having passed the initial quiz, inside the OR it's cool. The room is quite nice. My anesthesiologist introduces herself, and asks if I like the music.

Yup, nothing shows the integrity commissioner's report got it wrong more than getting into a schoolyard spat with another councillor during a debate about said report. And we wonder why voter turnout for local elections is so low.

This is really no different than taking our hard-earned money and throwing it at the cast of the episode of the very Springer Show. If Reggie's old pal Gary Burghursts can't get a grip on his own show, he should be replaced by a member of the local fire brigade, who will simply turn a hose on councillors who get out of hand.

The entire Petrowski affair is just the latest incident demonstrating why citizens disengage from politics, why many regard the politician as a kind of parasitic life form and would rather pay attention to TV than to the body shop decisions affecting their lives.

Councillors, here is some free advice: it's high time you got your collective act together. We don't want to hear your chest thumping statements about how you are fighting for the little guy, the taxpayer or your principles. We don't want to read about you bullying civil servants or carrying personal vendettas into the council chamber.

Treat us with more respect than that. You lot were hired by us, the citizens of Niagara, to do a job. If you cannot do that, I promise we'll happily replace you with someone who can. Despite what you might think, not a single one of you is irreplaceable.

Leave the political circus show to Toronto. Sit down. Shut up. Get to work.

They are playing the Bee Gees songs from the movie, Saturday Night Fever. I like the movie with John Travolta and the Bee Gees with their soprano-like voices (I briefly wonder if they had had my operation.) As I ask out, the lyrics "Staying alive" are playing. After the surgery I remain until I awake in the recovery room, always confusing because we can't remember anything happening, yet in my case, those life-affirming Bee Gees lyrics immediately return and help make me feel positive.

After a suitable delay and observation period, as well as a detailed home prescription assignment along with two prescriptions to be filled, we are allowed to leave.

The hospital is huge, bright, clean and inviting. They have wonderful volunteers falling all over themselves trying to assist us. On the way out, Miriam didn't get even close to the door with me in a wheelchair before a thoughtful gentleman intervenes to wheel me outside while she gets the car. My assessment of the new hospital? I am impressed. Their assessment of me? I get the results in 2-3 weeks.

www.whatrawelltherapy.com



## ■ COMMUNITY: New members



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nov. 5, John Harvey, region 38 chair, inducted two new members into the Fonthill Lions Club. From left, Harvey, Fred Harbour, sponsor, Jake Dilts, sponsor, Mike Fairman, new member, Ric Gretsinger, new member, Doug Gaylor, Fonthill President



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Nov. 12, Robin Madere, region 38 vice-president, inducted four new members into the Fonthill Lions. Front from left, Sharon Cripps, Elaine Boulet, new members, Madere, Matti Rampado, Bambel Ferrusi-Cercone. Back, Del Loney, Lorraine Metter, Enid Gatche, Linda Roach, sponsors.

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# PELHAM DATEBOOK

## NOVEMBER 28

### PELHAM DOG PARK FUNDRAISER

Hosted by Lazy Loon Restaurant, 155 Hwy. 20, Fonthill, 4 to 9 p.m. 10% of sales go to building Pelham's dog park.

### MESSY CHURCH

It's time to get messy at Holy Trinity Church in Fonthill. All ages are welcome, free food, crafts, games, message, smiles and laughter. 4:30 to 7 p.m. at 1537 Pelham St.

## NOVEMBER 29

### YARN EXCHANGE

Bring a minimum of a full ball to trade at Pelham Public Library. Everyone welcome. Bring your handiwork and share a while, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

### GOURMET COFFEE

Taste and learn event - discover latte art professional barista. \$5 cover from 7 to 9 p.m. at 940 Halst St. RSVP for limited seating, 905-892-6881.

## NOVEMBER 30

### CHILI CHALLENGE

and turkey raffle hosted by Fonthill Lions Club, at the Fonthill hall on Hwy. 20, at 8 p.m. All the chili you can eat for \$5. Who will win?

### ANNUAL POTTERY STUDIO SALE

Nov. 30, 10 a.m. to Dec. 1, 4 p.m. Port Robinson Road, Fonthill. mmm pottery.com  
**PELVIC FLOOR PILATES WORKSHOP**

Pelvic floor health workshop, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 178 Hwy. 20 West, Fonthill. Cost is \$45 and spacing is limited. Contact Movement Unlimited Inc. at 905-892-1239.

## DECEMBER 2

### GIFT WRAPPING DAYS

at Pelham Public Library for a small donation. Held in Pelham Library Festival Room this day 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Dec. 3 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 4 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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## DECEMBER 6

### SANTA'S VISIT

at Pelham Public Library for ages six and under, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free admission with a food donation to Pelham Cares. Registration required.

### WASSAIL PARTY

at Fenwick United Church, 1050 Church St. 7:30 p.m. Entertainment by Sweet Harmony, fellowship and good food. Tickets are \$10 available at 905-892-3081, 905-892-5225 or at the door.

## DECEMBER 7

### CHRISTMAS TEA AND BAZAAR

at Glad Tidings Church of God, 1 Pancake Ln., Fonthill, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Annual Christmas open house at Boggio and Parton Fonthill Pharmacy and Log Cabin Gift Shoppe. 20% discounts, refreshments and goodies will be served. Photos with Santa from 1 to 3 p.m. Please bring a donation for Pelham Cares. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. book signing by Sandra Orchard.

### PELHAM COMMUNITY FOOD

## DRIVE

From 9 to 9:30 a.m. until noon. Residents in the urban areas of Pelham are asked to put out non-perishable foods on their porch. Volunteers will fan out from both the Fenwick and Fonthill Lions halls and pick up food door-to-door. If you miss the pick up items can be dropped off at the Pelham Cares office on Highway 20.

### FRIENDS OF PELHAM CHAIRFAIR FUNDRAISER

Local Pelham artists have generously donated their time and have hand painted old children's chairs. Own a piece of library history as these vintage chairs are from when the library was first built! Find that unique Christmas gift and help out the library at the same time. Each chair is signed by the artist and comes with a gift basket. Or if you are a music fan, place a bid on a stool used and signed by Sylvia Tyson, guest artist donated by Oakridge Woodworking of Fenwick. Bidding until 1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 7. Pelham Public Library

Mon. Dec. 9th (10-12). \$2.00. Pelham Public Library.

## DECEMBER 14

### SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Pelham's 16th annual Santa Claus Parade. Join Santa after the parade at Central Park for a visit. Free hot apple cider, chili, hotdogs and coffee.

### MODEL RAILROAD OPEN HOUSE

During the Pelham Santa Claus Parade, from noon until 3:30 p.m. 1141 Maple St. Fenwick.

## DECEMBER 16

### HEARING CLINIC

Connect Hearing will be at Pelham Public Library for free hearing screenings and answering any questions, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Schedule your appointment by calling 905-892-6068.

## ONGOING

### FAMILY YOGA

Nov. 30. The Village Yogi holds a special class once a month, on a Saturday afternoon from 1-2 at The Village Yogi, downtown Fonthill. This class is open to anyone and is also suitable for children ages four to 11. \$15 for one adult and child, additional kids are \$4. Pre-registration is required and can be done at [www.TheVillageYogi.com](http://www.TheVillageYogi.com)

### KNIT WITS

Work on your present project while spending time with other knitters. All levels. Crocheters welcome. Knitting tips will be shared at each session. Fridays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$2. Drop in at Pelham Public Library.

### DROP-IN BRIDGE

Wednesday at Pelham Library, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come alone or with a friend. Refreshments. Call ahead for the schedule at 905-892-6443. Cost \$1.

### PASTA NIGHT

Always the first Thursday of every month from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Alexander Church in Fonthill. \$10 adults, \$5 children ages four to 12 and three and under is free. All you can eat. \$9 for take-out. Penne, meatballs, sausage, bean medley, garlic bread, salad, dessert, coffee and tea.

Continued on page 14

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### RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

#### Zumba Fitness @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday Dec 3 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Thursday Dec 5 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60.

#### Zumba Kids & Zumba Kids Jr. @ Pelham Arena

Turn up the music, wiggle, shake and have a blast with your friends in these rockin', high-energy fitness parties packed with specially choreographed kid-friendly routines.

#### Tuesday Dec 3

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm (4-7 yrs)  
6:00 pm - 6:30pm (8+ yrs)

#### Thursday Dec 5

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm (4-7 yrs)  
6:00 pm - 6:30pm (8+ yrs)

Drop in and try any session for \$4.50 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$40 at Pelham Town Hall. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607, ext. 329.

#### Walking Club - Everyone is welcome - Dec 3 and Dec 5

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

#### Arena Programs

Public Skating	Adult Public Skating	Adult/Preschool	Men's Shinny Hockey	Women's Shinny Hockey	Women's Learn to Play Hockey
Tuesday Dec 3 7:30-8:30 pm Friday Dec 6 8:00 - 9:30 pm Sunday Dec 8 1:00-2:20 pm	Thursday Dec 5 1:00 - 2:00 pm	Tuesday Dec 3 1:00 - 2:00 pm Friday Dec 6 10:00 - 11 am	Tuesday Dec 3 1:00 - 2:00 pm Friday Dec 6 9:00 - 10:00 am	Monday Dec 2 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursday Dec 5 10:30 - 11:30 am	Thursday Dec 5 9:30 - 10:30 am

"Get Active for Life" Join us at a park near you! Participation is at no charge, but we do require a registration form be submitted.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
10:00 - 11:00 am	Peace Park (Nordic Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	Peace Park (Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	Cherry Ridge Park (Walking)	
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Cherry Ridge Park (Walking)	Peace Park (Walking)		Woodstream Park (Walking)		Peace Park (Walking)

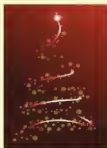
For more information, please visit [pelham.ca](http://pelham.ca) or contact [joook@pelham.ca](mailto:joook@pelham.ca) or call 905-892-2607 ext. 329.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

**The Riehl Reveal** - Join us on Monday, December 2 at 4 pm for the unveiling of the Isaac Riehl Memorial Skatepark at Marlene Stewart Streit Park

**The Mayor's Gala Committee** is seeking applications from local organizations serving Pelham that are interested in receiving a donation from the funds generated by the Annual Mayor's Gala. Visit [www.pelham.ca](http://www.pelham.ca) for more information.

### CHRISTMAS IN PELHAM! November 6, 203 - January 5, 2014 Check out these great events around town!



**December 1 - January 1 (all day): Temperanceville Historic Display - Peace Park Fonthill**

**December 4 (2pm to 4pm): Lesson, Carols & Cookies - Fonthill United Church**

Come out for some snacks, singing and fellowship

**December 6 (1pm to 8pm): Caroling - Downtown Fonthill**

Presented by Glynn A. Green School Choir, Maple Crest School Choir, & E.L. Crossley School Choir

**December 6 (4pm to 10pm): Outdoor Christmas Market**

Under the Fonthill Arches - Christmas Caroling, Santa, Artisans, Food Vendors & Holiday Cheer!

**December 7 (9:30am to 1pm): Pelham Community Food Drive**

To benefit Pelham Cares!

**December 7 (10:15am to 1pm): Christmas in Pelham Celebration - Downtown Pelham/Bandshell**

AK Wigg Choir performs; Meet & Greet with Santa; Hay rides; A Cappella Niagara strolling performances; Harpist at Sapphires Jewellers; Pictures with Santa (Log Cabin)



Applications are available now for the **Outdoor Christmas Market** (December 6) and for the **Christmas Light Competition** (December 7 to 25) at [www.pelham.ca](http://www.pelham.ca) or at the municipal offices.  
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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **REGIONAL:** Clear and respectful communication

## Strategic plan to be finalized

**BRAIN BATY**  
Niagara Regional councillor

The third draft of the NPCA strategic plan is

now open for comment and should be finalized by the full authority at their December meeting. It is available at [www.npca.ca](http://www.npca.ca). The plan has been formulated over several months

following extensive consultation with stakeholders such as farmers, developers, environmentalists, regular users of NPCA facilities and the general public at large. In addition

there was in-depth consultation with internal staff as well as municipal and regional staff. Following this lengthy consultative process, five working groups were established to review findings and to propose recommendations for future actions.

The preliminary consultation stage explored the NPCA from four strategic viewpoints. We asked individuals to identify the strengths of the organization. That was followed by identifying the weaknesses that were perceived. Then we requested individuals to provide suggestions for opportunities that might not be currently part of the culture. That was followed by the threats existent to the current structure and organization. The jargon of strategic planning refers to this as the SWOT process.

The five working groups were as follows: governance and accountability; effective NPCA model to set policy and priorities; NPCA assets and asset management; improving development process performance and effective communication with stakeholders and public. All working groups were chaired by a member of the NPCA board and engaged citizens with varying points of view. These preliminary reports were reviewed and summarized by our staff and the consultant and then reviewed internally and externally. Earlier this month two public meetings were held to determine the support or lack of support for the draft plan. These comments are now being summarized for the preparation of a final draft to be considered by the full authority in December.

Early discussions showed that the

NPCA had never established some fundamental foundations such as a mission statement, a vision and values. To that end these have been recommended as follows: **MISION:** To manage our watershed's natural resources by balancing community, economic and environmental needs; **VISION:** Balancing conservation and sustainable development for future generations by engaging stakeholder and community collaboration; **VALUES:** To the stakeholders and communities affected by our actions, we value:

1. A sustainable balance between environmental conservation, economic growth and agricultural prosperity
  2. Clear and respectful communication
  3. Decisions that reflect integrity, fairness and sensitivity to all impacted by our actions
  4. An organization that delivers services to our clients with creativity and innovation
  5. Quality services with transparency and accountability
  6. Pragmatic solution oriented approaches to decision making
  7. A respectful work environment and professional development.
- Readers are requested to communicate with NPCA should you wish to make commentary on the above or the strategic draft plan.

**Brian Baty** is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham, a member of the NPCA and Chair of the Governance and Accountability working group [brian.baty@niagararegion.ca](mailto:brian.baty@niagararegion.ca)

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** Students to auction off art

## Art gala fundraiser for Maple Crest

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Pelham News Staff

If you're looking for that unique piece of art or Christmas gift, visit the 8th annual art gala at Peninsula Lakes Golf Course on Webber Road.

About 1,000 pieces of art will be sold at the gala from the students at Fonthill's Maple Crest Early School, who range in ages two to Grade 2.

November at the school is dedicated to the arts. The stu-

dents spend the month learning about various artists and different techniques. From that knowledge students make Christmas ornaments, large pieces of work and have taken old pieces of furniture to up-

cycle them.

Tickets are \$25, with proceeds going to their new school, which is still in need of a playground. The school opened in its new location in September, and the art

■ **SAFETY:** Be seen in Pelham

## Pelham launches programs to keep community safe

Pelham is taking part in a road safety campaign to keep pedestrians, cyclists, boarders and motorists safe.

The campaign, called Be Seen in Pelham, reminds and encourages those who use roads and sidewalks

to be seen by wearing reflective, visible gear at night, avoid distractions like texting or wearing earphones, walk on sidewalks and when there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic. Pedestrians are reminded to always cross at crosswalks or inter-

sections and never assume a motorist can see you.

As part of the campaign, free reflector lights can be picked up Dec. 2, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Marlene Stewart Street Park during the Riehl Reveal and Dec. 6, from 8 to

9 p.m. at the Pelham Arena Public Skate.

Safety information will also be available at these locations. The campaign is sponsored by the Pelham Active Transportation Committee.

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gala is their only major fundraiser. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance at Maple Crest Early School.

The live auction will be from 7 to 10 p.m.  
[melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca](mailto:melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca)  
Twitter: @brunmelissa

**“**

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## ■ HEALTH

# Authorities worried about flesh-eating heroin substitute

**QILL SAWCHUK**  
Niagara

There is something bad going on in the back alleys and streets of Niagara that's attracted national attention.

Users of a drug, which some believe may be flesh-eating heroin substitute Krokodil, see the skin around the injection site turn scaly and crocodile-like before it dies.

If the drug on Niagara streets is Krokodil, which gained popularity in Russia a decade ago, it would be the first time it has been found in Canada.

Glen Walker, the executive director of AIDS Niagara, which runs the Streetworks needle exchange program, isn't sure if the drug is Krokodil, but whatever it is, it is not good.

Quantifying the extent of the problem is never easy. The underground drug culture can be hard to penetrate.

"It has the look of a Krokodil, but at this point, we don't have any confirmed case we are aware of," Walker said. "We are seeing a number of individuals who are having a really bad reaction to what they've purchased, which they believed to be heroin."

"We are seeing people who are exhibiting the really bad sores. They are getting blistered skin around the injection site and abscesses, and the skin is sort of peeling."

"They are having some very bad reactions to it that aren't normal for someone using heroin."

Krokodil is made with a combination iodine, gasoline, red phosphorus, lighter fluid and paint thinner. It's then mixed with cocaine, either in the form of pills or syrup. Det-Sgt. Terry Thomson of the Niagara Regional Police drug unit said police can't medically confirm the drug is here.

He said the symptoms associated with Krokodil can be mistaken with the compli-

cations long-term users of injectable drugs like heroin can develop through infections from reusing needles and exposing themselves to bacteria.

"It is confirmed that this drug is actually down here, and not, for lack of a better word, a bad batch of heroin, it would be a big concern for us and the public in general," Thomson said.

"We can't confirm it is Krokodil. We would certainly be interested in speaking to people who are reportedly using it. I would be interested in obtaining a sample to send to Health Canada for analysis to try and track it down."

Even though the cases are unconfirmed, Thomson said Niagara police felt they had a duty to inform the public of the risks.

"What I preached to the community over the years is you don't know what you are putting in your body," Thomson said. "It's not made by a pharmaceutical company. People are in this business to make money and if they can put (an ingredient) in there that is going to give them the look of pure heroin, they are going to do it."

"It does come here, who knows what we are going to see. I don't want to speculate, but if it is, we are going to track it and monitor it, and be prepared to come with a strong public message."

"If the drug really is that bad, it scares the bejeesus out of me."

Krokodil originated in Russia because heroin became scarce. That's not the case in Niagara.

Walker said users have told him they thought they were taking heroin, but immediately knew that wasn't the case because of intense burning around the injection site.

See DRUG page 11



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **TRAFFIC FATALITY:** 26-year-old killed in crash had just graduated from university

## 'He had a good heart'

**DON FRASER**  
QMI Niagara

Cody Burke was at the cusp of a new life.

He'd graduated in August from Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y. with a master's degree in business administration. The St. Catharines resident had started working at Canyon Creek restaurant in Niagara Falls, and was even doing a little marketing for the company.

He was poised to apply for a job at Canyon's head office, said his Merrittton family.

Burke, 26, died Friday in a head-on crash in Pelham near Regional Rd. 10 and Canboro Rd., while returning from a morning of duck hunting in Dunnville.

At the family home, mom **Barb Burke** described him as a "very warm-hearted son, who put others before him."

"He was the go-to guy when someone had a problem," she said of Burke, who was also a graduate of St. Winston Churchill Secondary School and Niagara College. "He had the words and aura to make them better people. Everybody wanted to be around him."

Police say a Mack water truck was hauling a load southbound on Victoria

Ave. just before noon Friday. The truck was crossing the train tracks, while Burke was driving north in a 1987 white Buick.

Police believe the car crossed into the south-bound lanes and collided with the truck, whose driver sustained what police said were minor injuries.

The incident was under investigation Friday, and no further information was available by Sunday.

Over the weekend, Burke's sister Caitlyn described him as "a protector."

"He took care of his family when they were sick, and made us smile when we didn't want to."

"When we were kids, we would set up the road hockey nets and play until dinner or until the sun went down. All of the kids in the neighbourhood would come to play."

She said her brother was probably happiest when he was dirt biking — Burke had sporting passions that ranged from whitewater rafting to motocross, hockey and baseball.

Caitlyn also remembers she and her brother "four wheeling in Nova Scotia. We would get lost for hours in the forest finding trails and exploring nature."



Cody Burke

Burke's father Bob described his son as "an excellent kid, never a problem kid. He was loved by all his cousins."

"He had a good heart. And had a ton of friends," Burke's girlfriend, Jessica Cameron, also remembers him for what she said was his kind and driven spirit.

"He was really hard-working, a goal-driver, determined, ambitious," she said. "He had the world in front of him."

Funeral visitation takes place at the George Dartle Funeral Chapel, 585 Carlton St. in St. Catharines on Wednesday, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

A funeral liturgy outside of Mass will be held in the funeral home chapel Thursday at 10 a.m.

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### ■ DRUG

## If symptomatic, go to hospital

From page 10

Whether it is Krokolid or a bad batch of heroin that has been cut with something toxic, the results are scaring people on the streets.

"They are alarmed by what they are hearing. More people are coming to the surface and saying I have these symptoms. I have these sores. It's not a one-

time incident.

"We have been trying to encourage people to go to the hospital. It's not the type of thing you can treat with Polysporin and Band-Aids. You have to get to the hospital. You have to get to a clinic."

But the people who are injection drug users have been treated really badly

by the health-care system. There is a huge reluctance to access health care or go to a hospital. They do tend not to go and it gets worse and worse. If you don't treat these abscesses they go right down to the bone."

bill.sawchuk@hotmail.com  
@BillSawchuk

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■ **POLITICS:** PC leader calls on government to get ball rolling

# Approve new hospital grant: Hudak

**RAY SPITERI**

QMI Agency Niagara

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak is calling on the Liberal government to approve a planning grant allowing local authorities to take the next step in building a "south Niagara" hospital in Niagara Falls.

The grant would provide Nia-

gara Health System with financing to develop a preliminary capital plan, which would identify core services and programs at the proposed hospital at Lyons Creek and Montrose Rds.

The planning process would also outline the governance of the new organization within the hospital.

The next step would be a capital planning grant to finalize plans before construction begins.

Hudak said that was the criteria set out for the proposed Windsor mega hospital, which in January received a \$2.3-million planning grant to consolidate two sites into one.

The new St. Catharines hospital

cost \$1 billion.

"I don't know why that's the case for Windsor, but you're not doing it for Niagara," Hudak told Liberal Health Minister Deb Matthews at Queen's Park this week.

"We want to see that new hospital at the Lyons Creek Rd. site in Niagara Falls."

In an e-mail response, Matthews' spokeswoman Samantha Grant said the NHS has submitted a pre-capital proposal to the ministry for a future south Niagara hospital.

"We are carefully reviewing it and giving it our full consideration," said Grant. "This is an important step in the capital-planning process."

Grant did not respond to Hudak's request of Matthews and did not indicate whether the ministry was close to rendering a decision on the NHS proposal.

Instead, Grant reinforced Matthews' appreciation for provincially appointed supervisor Kevin Smith and defended the Liberal government's record on health care in Niagara.

She said Smith has done "outstanding work" to restore confidence in the NHS and provided the ministry with "strong recommendations to strengthen health care going forward, including recommending a new site for a hospital in south Niagara."

"As a government, we have increased our funding into Niagara health services by 52% and we have invested in a new state-of-the-art hospital in St. Catharines. We will continue to work with the Niagara community to ensure that they are receiving the high-quality care that they've come to expect."

Last year, Smith recommended the provincial government approve building a hospital on the outskirts of Niagara Falls. It would replace aging sites in Niagara Falls, Welland, Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Hudak supports Smith's recommendations, saying Smith based his proposal on expert advice, that it will improve health care and ultimately save on operating costs.

"It actually saves money," he said. "It means you have savings you could put towards attracting new nurses who are run off their feet today. It saves taxpayers money and it raises the bar when it comes to standards."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said she supports the idea of a hospital in Niagara Falls, but doesn't agree with closing other hospitals in the area to make it happen.

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The opposition Tories have asked the minority Liberal government to green light a planning grant that would start the process of ultimately building a new "south Niagara" hospital on donated land at the corner of Lyons Creek and Montrose Rds. in Niagara Falls.

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## ■ EDUCATION

## Brock grads score well in landing jobs

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QMI Agency Niagara

Brock University graduates are nudging higher than the provincial average in getting jobs.

An independent survey on undergraduate university programs says the employment rate for Brock grads was 92.8% two

years after graduation.

It also showed 82% of those Brock grads said their jobs were related to their university studies.

Across Ontario, more than 92% of 2010 undergrads were employed within two years of graduation.

The survey also found that across Ontario, the average salary for univer-

sity graduates in full-time employment was \$49,277 two years after graduation, up from the average \$42,661 earned six months after graduation.

"I'm very pleased with the results," said Murray Knuttila, Brock's vice-president academic. "I think it dem-

onstrates, some public misgivings and rhetoric notwithstanding... the vast majority of our students are getting jobs."

The survey was conducted for Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities by CCI Research Inc.

In all, 70,845 students who graduated from undergraduate programs at Ontario universities in 2010 were surveyed between November 2012 and March 2013, with 25,583 or 36.1 per cent responding.

don.fraser@sunmedia.ca



AARON BOGGIO  
R.Ph., B.Sc., Pharm.



Ask Our

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RON PARTON  
R.Ph., B.Sc., Pharm.

The birth control pill is one of the most commonly used medications. However, there still remain some misconceptions about the pill.

There are a number of different types of pills. They all contain the same type of estrogen. Newer pills have less estrogen than older pills. Newer pills are effective in preventing pregnancy and they demonstrate reduced symptoms of bloating and breast tenderness. The lower dose pills may be less effective if one pill is missed. If an individual goes for longer than seven days in a pill free interval that is when they are at most risk of pregnancy. This means it is very important to take the last pill and the first pill of a cycle. There are some recommendations that a pill with a higher dose of estrogen should be used in women weighing over 154 pounds for increased effectiveness.

Pills differ in the type of progesterone they contain. Some pills are particularly effective for improving acne. DIANE 35 is used to treat moderate to severe acne. YAZ is used for mild to moderate acne. There may be a very small increased risk of forming a clot on these pills, and so pills such as ALESSE and MARVELON can be tried first.

Some pills are monophasic, meaning they have constant levels of estrogen and progesterone. Others have changing levels of progesterone. Both types of pills are effective, the only difficulty with a triphasic pill is that it is not ideal to be taken without a pill free interval. If an individual wants to take their pills back to back to avoid a period, they may still get a period with the triphasic pill.

Sometimes women develop migraines on the pill because of a drop in estrogen during the week off the pill, or they want to avoid having a period. In this case it may be worth taking SEASONALE. This is a pill you take for three months in a row without a break. This is safe to do and may help with the above mentioned issues.

Patients should be aware that some medications can decrease the effectiveness of the pill. Rifampin, barbiturates, phenytoin and carbamazepine can all decrease effectiveness. Experts say that antibiotics are unlikely to reduce efficacy of the pill.

The pill is a good tool for treating a myriad of issues. It can prevent pregnancy, clear acne, regulate and lighten cycles. There are a number of options when it comes to the type of pill you take to address each of these concerns. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to determine the right one for you.

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From page 6

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# LOCALNEWS

■ **COMMUNITY:** Volunteer firefighters program its 24th year



DAVE JOHNSON/STAFF PHOTO

Fonthill Volunteer Fire Association's 24th Christmas Toy Collection will see toys and pet food collected to help people in Pelham. Helping announce the annual event were, from left, Kedra Servos, of Welland and District Humane Society, holding a bag of dog food, John Kiss and Sparky, and Yvon Audette holding toys.

## Pelham supportive of toy drive

Tribune Staff

Fonthill Volunteer Fire Association members want children in the community to have a bright Christmas.

And members are hoping the community helps out with the 24th annual Christmas Toy Collection drive.

Toys can be donated for ages ranging from infants up to 18 years.

"We're looking for mittens, gloves and blankets for the little ones," said association member Yvon Audette.

The toys are given to Pelham Cares, which hands them out to the families it serves in the community.

Any excess toys, said Audette, will go to Welland's Community Christmas Toys program.

"We get a lot of donations every year ...

people are very supportive."

With the poor economy in Niagara, it's harder for families to find extra money for Christmas for toys, Audette said it's also harder for people to come up with food for pets.

That's why the toy drive also accepts donations of cat and dog food, which will go toward Welland and District Humane Society.

Donations can be made at the Hwy. 20 fire hall in Fonthill, Fonthill Library, Pelham Town Hall, TD Bank, Meridian Credit Union, CIBC, and RBC banks in Fonthill and Fenwick on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays noon to 4 p.m. from Saturday, Dec. 7, through Sunday, Dec. 15.

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# 'Selfie' 2013's top word

JEFF BOLUCHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

Chelsea Anco knows all about the word that's so 2013.

The 18-year-old Brock University student said social networks

such as Twitter and Instagram are probably why "selfie" is Oxford Dictionary's hot word this year.

The organization chose selfie as its word of the year, after its use spiked a whopping 17,000% since

2012.

For Anco and fellow Brock student Maren Mackenzie, 18, selfies — photos taken of oneself on a smartphone — are all about posting photos people will like.

# LET'S ALL DO OUR PART! PLEASE RECYCLE.



"You don't want a picture on your Facebook from like 2008," Anco said.

For Mackenzie, it's a good feeling to post the photos. "It's a confidence-booster."

Selfie beat out a bevy of other popular words — among them "twerk," driven into the public consciousness by Miley Cyrus's salacious dancing, and "bitcoin," a type of virtual currency.

It's no surprise selfies are getting big, said Scott Henderson, an associate professor specializing in pop culture at Brock University. He said selfies have been around since the dawn of digital photography, but new technologies have fed their rise as a means of communication.

"It goes back a long time, pre-iPhones," he said.

But new utilities like Snapchat have caused selfies to explode this year.

In a way, Henderson said, a selfie can be read much like graffiti — a statement by people feeling powerless in a digital world and a tough economy.

"I think the selfie has become kind of a digital way of stating that 'I am somebody and here is my image.'"

But there's reason to be worried, he said. Some selfies, he said, come off sexualized, especially for girls.

Henderson said there's something positive in creating one's self-image. But he said some selfies tend to be influenced by what he called a "soft-porn Internet culture."

"It's worrying to think that particularly young women are imagining themselves being seen this way."

Opinions on selfies varied when a reporter swung through Brock University Tuesday to talk with students.

For 19-year-old Max Dottin of St. Catharines, selfies are something that must be done for the sake of social media.

"Say you have Facebook. You've got to show your face off. It's got Face right in the name," he said.

"It just takes lots of tries."

Selfies were less of a thrill for 19-year-old Shelby O'Breza. "I'm not a huge selfie fan," she said.

"It's weird. Pictures are supposed to be of groups of people."

But selfie as word of the year tops alternatives, she said.

"As long as it beat twerk."

Pavin Skariah, though, figured the word so associated with Cyrus's antics would soon overthrow smartphone photos.

"Selfie's big," said the 21-year-old, "but twerk seems like it's getting up there. It might take its place."

The staying power of Cyrus's hip-wagging was not enough to convince Henderson, though. He figured the twerking fad would run its course.

"Twerking will disappear, but I think the selfie has become a little more embedded."



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## Shifting gears coming to a grinding halt

**TONY RICCIUTO**  
QMI Agency Niagara  
Cars with stick shifts are alive

and well, but it's going to get harder in some parts of the country for new drivers to find instruc-

tors to teach them how to drive a manual transmission.

With fewer drivers asking for

the service, instructors with Young Drivers of Canada in the Greater Toronto Area will be phasing it out at the end of the year.

It will still be offered in some cities including Guelph, Newmarket, Ottawa and Vancouver.

"There are entire families comprised of drivers who could not start, let alone drive a manual shift vehicle," said Angelo DiCicco, general manager of Young Drivers of Canada in the GTA.

He said 25 years ago, 40% of all students took lessons in a manual transmission car. Those numbers have dropped over the years and recently Young Drivers of Canada instructors in the GTA deliver less than 2% of lessons in manual shift vehicles.

DiCicco said he is teaching his 16-year-old daughter, Nicole, to drive an automatic. When he tried describing a manual transmission to her and mentioned the word clutch, she said to her generation a clutch is a small fashionable evening purse.

Last year, less than 8% of more than 20,000 of their students across Canada took any training at all in a manual shift vehicle, he said. And only 5% of new vehicles in Canada are manual transmission.

"The joy of shifting into a higher gear in Canada is coming to a grinding halt," said DiCicco.

Many owners of muscle cars or exotic vehicles wouldn't dare dream of owning an automatic.

Bob Ricci, sales manager at Hamburg Honda, said about 20% of the market place comes in looking for a manual transmission.

"I could see where people might not want one in a higher city because of the stop and go and I would prefer an auto-

matic any day," said Ricci. "If we're talking about something like a Corvette, then it's a different story because it's much more exhilarating to drive."

While a vehicle with a manual transmission is cheaper to buy, about \$1,200 in savings, there's not much difference in fuel economy.

"If someone is on a budget that might motivate them to buy one," said Ricci.

His customers have been a cross section of people from a 16-year-old male driver to a 75-year-old woman.

Tommy Nicholls, 32, is a long-distance truck driver so shifting gears is second nature to him.

His personal vehicle is a Dodge pickup and the reason he got one with a manual transmission is so that his friends would stop asking to use his truck when moving. Dustin Szabo, 34, is the owner of a five-speed 2003 Mitsubishi Lancer that has nearly 300,000 kilometres. He has owned it for 12 years and the vehicle he owned before that was also manual.

"My mother always drove a manual transmission so that's what I learned on," said Szabo, who is thinking about switching to an automatic for his next vehicle.

"It was cool when I was 22 and got the vehicle, but now I'm getting older and maybe I'm getting a bit lazy. My sister is 21, she also drives manual and she loves it."

Heather Boisvert, 38, who drives a five-speed Toyota Procellida, started driving with an automatic and later switched to manual. She also drives a 10-speed transport truck and a six-speed motorcycle. "I drive so much that I don't even think about shifting. It makes me feel more connected to the car and involved," she said. "I have no interest in driving an automatic."



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Friday, December 6th  
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Friday, Dec 6 to  
Saturday, Dec 7th,



The 15th annual Rotary Holiday House Tour invites everyone to visit a variety of historic and contemporary properties, all decorated for the holiday season by local businesses and volunteers. Your support benefits countless others here in Niagara and throughout the world. Tour operates regardless of the weather. \$25.00 per person. Order online at [www.niagaraonthe-lake.com](http://www.niagaraonthe-lake.com). Purchased tickets can be picked up between 10 am and 5 pm, 7 days a week, at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, on the lower level at 26 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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## A COMMEMORATION OF THE BURNING OF THE TOWN ST. MARK'S CHURCH | DEC 10 7 PM



A torch lit procession through the cemetery will be followed by a candlelight service of inspirational readings and music. Hot cider will be served outside beside a bonfire during an outdoor flag ceremony. [www.niagaraonfire.com](http://www.niagaraonfire.com)

## TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE SANTA CLAUS PARADE DECEMBER 14



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JANUARY 1 | 3 pm | Navy Hall



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## ICEWINE FESTIVAL

JANUARY 1 - 31, 2014

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 TO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19



Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Queen Street transforms into a winter wonderland as the town comes together to play their part in wine country's annual icewine celebration with culinary creations, music, shopping and sparkling ice sculptures. [www.niagaraonthelake.com/icewine](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com/icewine)

## \*NEW\* SPARKLE AND ICE

Friday, January 17

A brand new signature event for Niagara-on-the-Lake: Sparkle and Ice. A celebration with Niagara-on-the-Lake Icelwinemakers and their VQA wines paired with icewine inspired tastings from the Signature Kitchen Chefs. The beautiful setting of the Great Hall in the Courthouse, with live entertainment and an official toast, served outdoors in the Icelwine Village at 10:30 pm, will make this an evening to remember. \$95.00 per person. Purchase your tickets at [www.niagaraonthelake.com](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com)

### Flash and Panache: ICEWINE Cocktail Competition

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

The Icelwine Village in the Heritage District takes on a whole new energy once the lights are dimmed...from 9 to 11 pm on Saturday evening, get out and experience the amazing icewine cocktails created by the Signature Kitchen Chefs of Niagara-on-the-Lake. And it's a Niagara-on-the-Lake competition, so you know the bar will be high -- and it's a bar made of ice! An event not to be missed, music, interesting cocktails and culinary accompaniments from the Signature Kitchen Chefs. [www.niagaraonthelake.com/icewine](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com/icewine)

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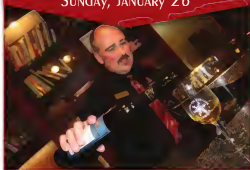
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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ SOCIAL

# Region passes 10-year housing plan

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
(M) Niagara

Niagara Region's housing plan for the next decade has left some housing advocates hopeful for change.

The Region celebrated National Housing Day Friday, a day after regional council approved a 10-year plan for affordable housing, the hefty report focuses on tackling homelessness in the community in the face of a dramatic public housing shortage.

"I think the thing that excites

me most about it is this is now a focal point," YWCA Niagara executive director Elisabeth Zimmermann said. "We recognize it as a community need and it's something that should be happening."

"My hope is it becomes a priority, from a council and a community perspective."

The new plan comes with Niagara Region facing a massive social housing crunch.

More than 11,000 people are waiting for affordable housing, Niagara Regional Housing

executive director Lora Beckwith said.

"We have about 8,000 units, but if you do that comparison, it doesn't come through. People have to move out before people can move in," she said.

"The current condition of the units is good ... but it's a question of time."

The passage of the plan was a focal point of Friday's small ceremony at regional headquarters.

The document lays out four goals — housing the homeless, helping people retain



**Healthy, strong,  
vibrant communities  
are places where  
everyone has a home."**

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs their home, increasing housing options and building housing system capacity — along with a

series of steps towards them.

The proposals include steps for bettering relationships between landlords and tenants, building up life-skills training, helping accessibility and energy efficiency into renovation projects and making housing a priority for surplus property.

Zimmermann told the crowd gathered Friday about an encounter with a woman in the YWCA's shelter whose car broke down, preventing her from getting to work.

"Do I pay my rent or do I fix my car? Those are the types of decisions we see women having to make every day, coming through our shelter."

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs said the shortage of affordable housing is a big challenge for the Region.

Ontario's average wait time for housing runs two to four years, he said. In Niagara, he said the wait can be as long as 10 years.

"Healthy, strong, vibrant communities are places where everyone has a home," he said.



## Monday

10:00 am  
Yoga All Levels  
(1 hour)

4:30pm  
Power Yoga  
(1 hour)

\*5:30 pm  
Pilates  
preregistered  
(1 Hour)

6:45 pm  
Cycle  
(3/4 hour)

\*6:45pm  
Boot Camp  
preregistered  
(1 Hour)

8:00 pm  
Yoga All Levels  
(1 hour)

## Tuesday

7:30 am Cycle  
(3/4 hr)

8:30 am Cycle  
(1/2 hr)

9:15 am  
Pedal and Pump  
(1/2 hr)

\*10:00 am  
Chair Yoga  
preregistered  
(3/4 Hour)

4:30pm BLT  
(1 Hour)

5:45 pm Cycle  
(3/4 Hour)

5:30 pm Kids Yoga  
(1 Hour)

7:00pm  
Zumba Sentao  
(3/4 Hour)

8:00pm  
SocoSize  
(1 Hour)

## Wednesday

10:00 am  
Yoga All Levels  
(1 hour)

5:30 pm  
Yoga All Levels  
(1 hour)

6:30pm  
Zumba  
(3/4 Hour)

6:45 pm  
Cycle  
(3/4 Hour)

\*7:30 pm  
Prenatal Yoga  
preregistered  
(1 Hour)



## Thursday

7:30 am  
Cycle  
(3/4 hr)

8:30 am  
Cycle  
(1/2 Hour)

10:00am  
Power Yoga  
(1 hour)

5:45 pm  
Cycle  
(3/4 Hour)

5:45pm  
Kickboxing & Abs  
(1 Hour)

6:45 pm  
Pedal and Pump  
(3/4 Hour)

7:00pm  
Zumba Toning  
(3/4 Hour)

## Friday

8:30 am  
Pedal and Pump  
(1/2 hr)

9:15 am  
Pedal and Pump  
(1/2 hr)

10:00 am  
Yoga All Levels  
(1 hour)



\*denotes a  
preregistered session  
— contact the  
studio for more  
details !!

## Schedule

### Saturday

8:15 am Cycle  
(1 hour)

9:30 am Cycle  
(1/2 hr)

10:15 am  
Yoga All Levels  
(1 hour)

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### Sunday

9:30am  
1 Hour Yoga all  
Levels

10:45am  
1 Hour Yoga all  
Levels

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## LOCAL NEWS

## ■ GUEST COLUMN

## U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor for Welland vet

**C**HOWING down on fish and chips at Pelham eatery Keith's Restaurant, Jim Summersides had me hooked on Second World War stories.

He and precious pal, Hank Sams, also a vet, were pumped from speaking to students at E.L. Crossley Secondary School Monday morning. It's one of their "great duties in life," said Summersides.

The pungent odour of vinegar soaking fries came close to taking my breath away. But co-incidentally, it meshed with this well-spoken Wellander's description of soldiers needed for a special unit for which he volunteered.

"We had to have a Grade 10 education, we had to have a pretty good physique, we had to be in doggone good condition, which most of us were, being 19-year-olds or thereabouts. We had to be full of vinegar."

Summersides, in the Canadian Army before volunteering, found himself part of an elite group — the First Special Service Force, a joint Canadian and American unit. He was in it about 18 months. It became known as the Devil's Brigade.

"We were never over 2,400 strong, with the Canadian contingent numbering about 1,000."

The brigade saw action at the Anzio beachhead in Italy, took part in the lib-

eration of Rome and other battles in Italy and France, he said. Formed in Helena, Montana, in 1942 it was disbanded in late 1944.

The unit had a casualty rate of 130%, an unusual statistic attributed to the high number of troops injured more than once, said Summersides. He was injured once, but not seriously, when a shell exploded in a trench, burying him.

Turning 90 next June, Summersides is awaiting a special honour. The First Special Service Force is to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for its wartime heroics.

He received notification in the mail. The date hasn't been set, but Summersides said

the presentation will be made in 2014 by President Barack Obama probably in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives "voted 100% each" in favour of awarding the First Special Service Force the Congressional Gold Medal, highest after the Congressional Medal of Honor, he said.

"Right after I get the telephone call, I'll hang up the phone and make a call to the travel agent," the decorated veteran said excitedly. He wore a navy blue Royal Canadian Legion blazer with a crest denoting him a lifetime member, and sported the unit's tie and array of ribbons and medals.

"It's strictly an American

award but Canadians who served will be awarded it, too. The medal is for exceptional service, that's it in my own words."

About 35 former Canadian troops and about 120 former American troops survive. Summersides stays current as a member of its Special Service Association. He served two one-year terms as president. It holds an annual reunion which alternates between Canada and the United States and publishes three newsletters a year.

After the war, Summersides came home to Welland and returned to work as "chief ice-cream maker" at Martin Dairy. He joined Atlas Steels where he remained for about 30 years, working up to "grease

monkey or as we used to say, lubricologist. It didn't sound as bad as grease monkey."

He is "proud and humbled" to be part of a unit that will receive the prestigious award.

"War is hell," he said when asked what emotions have stayed with him all these years later.

"Believe it or not, I sometimes wonder if we were spared to do what we're doing now — going out and telling the kids, giving them insight."

"You know, I admire this kid," said sidekick Sams, 96. Summersides and Sams — it sounds like a vaudeville team — speak at Welland Centennial Secondary School next week.

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